

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/606,602

Applicant(s)

WIEBER, ROBERT

Examiner

Kiran B. Patel

Art Unit

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/29/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 13, 23-26, 28, 29, 32-37 and 39-46.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 April 2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No./Mail Date 4/29/05.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>4/29/05</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Examiner's Amendment and
Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
Allowance

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Chapple.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 10-12, 14-22, 27, 30-31, 38.

Following is a complete list of pending claims.

Claim 1 (previously presented): An attachment system for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

a first member having a first flange providing a first attachment surface;

a second member having a second flange providing a second attachment surface, the second surface opposing the first surface forming a gap therebetween, at least one of the first member and second member being a roof panel of the automotive vehicle; and

a structural adhesive material adhered to the first surface and the second surface, the structural adhesive material formed from a heat activatable material, the structural adhesive material having a tensile strength of at least 12 MPa.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): The attachment system as in claim 1 wherein a layer of primer and a layer of paint are disposed directly over the adhesive material concealing the adhesive material from a surrounding environment and providing a Class A or a Class B finish.

Claims 4 and 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): The attachment system as in claim 3 wherein the structural adhesive material provides substantially the only attachment between the first surface and the second surface.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): The attachment system as in claim 3 wherein the structural adhesive material is applied to at least one of the first surface and the second surface with a mini-applicator.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The attachment system as in claim 8 wherein the mini-applicator includes an extruder.

Claims 10-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): The attachment system as in claim 3 wherein the adhesive material is formed from a heat activatable material that expands at a temperature encountered during at least one of an automotive e-coat and an automotive painting operation.

Claims 14-22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (currently amended): The attachment system as in claim 3 wherein the first member or the second member is a side panel of an automotive vehicle.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The attachment system as in claim 1 wherein the first member or the second member is a side panel of an automotive vehicle.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The attachment system as in claim 1 wherein the first member is attached to the second member with less than 10 welds.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The attachment system as in claim 1 wherein the first member is attached to the second member with less than 5 welds.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (currently amended): The attachment system as in claim 13 ~~27~~ wherein the first or second member is a side panel of the automotive vehicle and the roof panel is attached to the side panel with less than 10 welds.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The attachment system as in claim 13 ~~27~~ wherein the first or second member is a side panel of the automotive vehicle and the roof panel is attached to the side panel with less than 5 welds.

Claim 30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (currently amended): The attachment system as in claim 1 ~~27~~ wherein the structural adhesive material provides substantially the only attachment between the attachment surface of the flange of the roof panel and the attachment surface of the flange of the side panel.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The attachment system as in claim 1 ~~27~~ wherein the structural adhesive material provides attachment between the roof panel and the body panel without the assistance of any welds.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The attachment system as in claim 1 ~~27~~ wherein the adhesive material extends substantially continuously along the attachment surface of the roof panel.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The attachment system as in claim 1 ~~27~~ wherein the adhesive material is formed from a heat activatable material that expands at a

temperature encountered during at least one of an automotive e-coat and an automotive painting operation.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The attachment system as in claim 1 ~~27~~ wherein the flange of the roof panel extends downwardly at an angle relative to the roof panel.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The attachment system as in claim 1 ~~27~~ wherein the first or second member is a side panel of the automotive vehicle and the flange of the side body panel extends downwardly at an angle from the side body panel.

Claim 38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (currently amended): The attachment system as in claim 1 wherein the gap is exposed to an environment surrounding the automotive vehicle.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The attachment system as in claim 1 wherein the roof panel is an outer roof body panel.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The attachment system as in claim 3 ~~27~~ wherein the roof panel is an outer roof body panel.

Claim 42 (new): The attachment system as in claim 1 wherein the structural adhesive material is an epoxy-based structural foam.

Claim 43 (new): The attachment system as in claim 3 wherein the structural adhesive material is an epoxy-based structural foam.

Claim 44 (new): The attachment system as in claim 13 wherein the structural adhesive material is an epoxy-based structural foam.

Claim 45 (new): The attachment system as in claim 13 wherein the flange of the roof panel extends downwardly at an angle relative to the roof panel.


Claim 46 (new): The attachment system as in claim 45 wherein the first or second member is a side panel of the automotive vehicle and the flange of the side body panel extends downwardly at an angle from the side body panel.

3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for the allowance of the claims in this case, is the inclusion of the limitation "a structural adhesive material adhered to the first surface and the second surface, the structural adhesive material formed from a heat activation material, the structural adhesive material having a tensile strength of at least 12 MPa" in the independent claim, in combination with the other recited limitations in claims supported by this application, which are not found in the prior art of record.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Kiran B. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-6665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.


Kiran B. Patel, P. E.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612
May 28, 2005